

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for efficient management and transport of traffic over a network
2 comprising:
3 storing the available bandwidth capacity of paths in a network in a first router;
4 receiving a request at the first router from a network node of a second
5 network for a signaled path through the network to a destination node; and
6 examining the paths by the first router and assigning the signaled path to a
7 path from the first router to the destination node.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the request contains a
2 bandwidth requirement for the signaled path, the bandwidth requirement being met
3 by the assigned signaled path.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the network is a fiber optic
2 network and each path is a lightpath.

1 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second network is an
2 Internet Protocol (IP) network.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing the available
2 bandwidth capacity of the paths in a database at the first router.

1 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the database comprises a
2 lookup table.

1 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the lookup table comprises one
2 of a hash table and a search tree.

1 8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing the available
2 bandwidth capacity of paths in each router, the available bandwidth capacity of paths
3 in the network being exchanged between routers.

1 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the available bandwidth
2 capacity of paths in the network are exchanged by LIB agents in each router.

1 10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the destination node is a
2 router.

1 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the assigned path comprises a
2 label switched path (LSP).

1 12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining a list of
2 routers that are close in routing distance to the first router based on a topology of the
3 network.

1 13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the existing path comprises an
2 existing path from a second router to the destination node through the network, the
3 assigned signaled path comprising a path from the first router to the second router
4 and the existing path from the second router to the destination node.

1 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the first router and second
2 router are border routers of one of the network and the second network.

1 15. The method according to claim 13, wherein the second router is close to
2 the first router in distance.

1 16. The method according to claim 13, further comprising sending the
2 available bandwidth capacity of paths in the network from the network to the first
3 router.

1 17. The method according to claim 1, wherein the the assigned signaled path
2 comprising an existing path from the first router to the second router and a path from
3 the second router to the destination node.

1 18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the second router is close to
2 the destination node in distance.

1 19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising requesting second
2 router candidates from the destination node.

1 20. The method according to claim 19, further sending lightpath requests to
2 the second router.

1 21. The method according to claim 1, wherein the destination node resides in
2 a third network.

1 22. The method according to claim 1, further comprising assigning the signal
2 path to a path from the first router to the destination node using an existing path to
3 the destination node through the network

1 23. The method according to claim 1, further comprising assigning the signal
2 path to a path from the first router to the destination node using an existing path from
3 the first router through the network

1 24. A method for efficient management and transport of traffic over a network
2 comprising:

3 leaking the available bandwidth capacity of paths in a network to a first router
4 by the network;

5 receiving a request at the first router from a network node of a second
6 network for a signaled path through the network to a destination node; and

7 examining paths by the first router and assigning the signaled path to a path
8 from the first router to the destination node.

1 25. The method according to claim 24, further comprising assigning the
2 signaled path to a path from the first router to the destination node using an existing
3 path from the first router through the network.

1 26. The method according to claim 24, further comprising assigning the
2 signaled path to a path from the first router to the destination node using an existing
3 path to the destination node through the network.

1 27. The method according to claim 24, wherein the leaking occurs via an
2 Exterior Gateway Protocol (EGP).

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an existing path from the first router to a second router through the network, the
assigned signaled path comprising the existing path from the first router to the
second router and a path from the second router to the destination node.

33. The method according to claim 32, wherein the first router and the
second router are border routers of one of the first network and the second network.

34. The method according to claim 31, wherein the second router is close to
at least one of the first router and the destination node.

35. The method according to claim 24, wherein the second network
comprises an IP network.

36. A method for efficient management and transport of traffic over a network
comprising:

receiving a request at a first router from a network node of a second network
for a signaled path through a network to a destination node;

requesting information from the network by the first router;

receiving the information by the first router, the information comprising the
available bandwidth capacity of paths in a network and a list of routers close to the
destination node; and

examining paths by the first router using the information and assigning the
signaled path to a path from an intermediate node to the destination node.

1 37. The method according to claim 36, further comprising assigning the
2 signaled path to a path from the first node to an intermediate node using an existing
3 path to the intermediate node through the network.

1 38. The method according to claim 36, wherein the network comprises a fiber
2 optic network.

1 39. The method according to claim 36, wherein the existing path comprises
2 an existing path from the first router to a second router through the network, the
3 assigned signaled path comprising the existing path and a path from the second
4 router to the destination node.

1 40. The method according to claim 36, wherein the first router and second
2 router are border routers of one of the first network and the second network.

1 41. The method according to claim 40, wherein the second router is close to
2 the destination node.

1 42. The method according to claim 36, wherein the second network
2 comprises an IP network.

1 43. The method according to claim 36, comprising requesting the path
2 information through a user network interface (UNI).

1 44. A method for efficient management and transport of traffic over a network
2 comprising:

3 receiving a request at a first router from a network node of a second network
4 for a signaled path through a network to a destination node;

5 requesting information from the network by the first router;

6 receiving the information by the first router, the information comprising the
7 available bandwidth capacity of paths in a network; and

8 examining paths by the first router using the information and assigning the
9 signaled path to a path from the first router to an intermediate node, and aggregating
10 the signaled path to an existing path from the intermediate node to the destination
11 node.

45. The method according to claim 44, further comprising assigning the
12 signaled path to a path from the intermediate node to the destination node using an
13 existing path to the destination node through the network.

1 46. The method according to claim 44, wherein the existing path comprises
2 an existing path from a second router to the destination node through the network,
3 the assigned signaled path comprising a path from the first router to the second
4 router and the existing path from the second router to the destination node.

1 47. The method according to claim 44, wherein the second router is close to
2 the first router.

1 48. A method for efficient management and transport of traffic over a network
2 comprising:

3 monitoring traffic between the second network through the first network to at
4 least one remote network by a mobile agent at the second network; and

5 assigning traffic between the second network through the first network to each
6 at least one remote network by the mobile agent to a different one at least one
7 router,

8 wherein new traffic from the second network to one at least one remote
9 network is assigned to the one at least one router assigned to that one at least one
10 remote network.

11 49. The method according to claim 48, wherein the first network is a core
12 network, the core network being one of an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM)
13 optical network, a frame-relay network, and an Internet Protocol (IP) core network.

14 50. The method according to claim 48, wherein the at least one router are
15 border routers.

16 51. The method according to claim 48, wherein the monitoring comprises
17 monitoring traffic in each destination queue at the second network, each destination
18 queue containing traffic for one at least one remote network.

19 52. The method according to claim 48, wherein the mobile agent resides at
20 one at least one router.

1 53. The method according to claim 52, further comprising moving the mobile
2 agent from the one at least one router to another at least one router.

1 54. The method according to claim 48, wherein the first network is an optical
2 network.

1 55. The method according to claim 48, wherein the second network and the
2 at least one remote network are Internet Protocol (IP) subnets.

1 56. The method according to claim 48, further comprising assigning new
2 traffic from the second network to one at least one remote network to another at
3 least one router other than the one at least one router assigned to that one at least
4 one remote network when the one at least one router has a heavy traffic load.

1 57. The method according to claim 48, further comprising un-assigning one at
2 least one router assigned to one at least one remote network and assigning another
3 at least one router to the one at least one remote network when the another at least
4 one router has a light traffic load.

1 58. The method according to claim 48, further comprising exchanging the
2 availability bandwidth capacity of all paths in the first network between all at least
3 one router at the second network.

monitoring traffic between the second network through the first network to at
least one remote network by a mobile agent at the second network

59. A router comprising:
a database, the database storing information regarding the available
bandwidth capacity of all paths in a network;
a decision module, the decision module receiving a request for a path to route
traffic through the network and using the information to return a sequence of paths in
the network to handle the traffic;
a mapping and aggregation module, the mapping and aggregation module
aggregating the traffic to existing paths that have enough bandwidth to carry the
traffic;
a lightpath information base (LIB) agent module, the LIB agent module
sharing and collecting the information from other routers and performing signaling;
and
a routing and wavelength assignment module, the routing and wavelength
assignment module computing and selecting paths and assigning wavelengths.

60. The router according to claim 59, further comprising a traffic monitoring
module, the traffic monitoring module monitoring the traffic load initiating from a
subnet.

61. The router according to claim 60, further comprising a mobile agent
selection module, the mobile agent selection module using the results of the

monitoring to one of choose and de-select a router to manage the traffic through the
sequence of paths.

62. A system for efficient management and transport of traffic comprising:
a first network, the first network including a source node;
a second network, the second network having a plurality of paths through the
second network;
a third network, the third network having a destination node; and
a router operably connected to the first network and the second network, the
router receiving a request from the source node for a path through the second
network to route traffic from the first network to the destination node at the third
network, the router routing the traffic using an existing path to the destination node
through the second network.

63. The system according to claim 62, wherein new traffic from the first
network to the destination node at the third network is assigned to a router assigned
to handle traffic to the destination node at the third network.

64. A system for efficient management and transport of traffic comprising:
a first network, the first network including a source node;
a second network, the second network having a plurality of paths through the
second network;
a third network, the third network having a destination node; and

6 a router operably connected to the first network and the second network, the
7 router receiving a request from the source node for a path through the second
8 network to route traffic from the first network to the destination node at the third
9 network, the router routing the traffic using an existing path from the source node
10 through the second network.

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